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80218

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COUNTRY USSR

CONFIDENTIAL DATE: _____

DATE:

INFO.
2 JUN 1947

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SUBJECT Military Directives Concerning Headquarters
and Withdrawals from Occupied Countries

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CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
letter of 16 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2008

1. In accordance with an order from Moscow, the pre-war system of categories of Soviet military headquarters was recently re-instated as follows:

Category 1 Eq : The CO, without any reference to the number of troops under his command, has the authority of a battalion commander.

Category 2 Hq : The CO has the authority of a regimental commander

Category 3 Eq : The CO has the authority of a divisional commander.

Category 4 Hc : The CO has the authority of a corps commander.

Category 5 Ho : The CO has the authority of an army commander.

Category 6 Hq : The CO has the authority of the commanding officer of a military district. Category 6 headquarters exist only in the USSR.

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Vienna and Budapest at present are rated as Category 4 headquarters. Berlin, as a Category 5 headquarters. After the reorganization of the Soviet occupation forces in Hungary, the headquarters of the artillery division remaining in Hungary will be considered a Category 3 headquarters.

- Official Soviet announcements of dissolution of headquarters in occupied countries and concomitant return of troops to the USSR have occasioned numerous cases of mass desertions accompanied by thefts of documents and materiel. To counteract this, BULGANIN has recently issued a "Secret" order establishing procedure for transfer or deactivation of military units. This order provides that in future no prior announcement of such changes will be made, except in the form of an alert instituted 24 hours in advance of such anticipated change. For this purpose there have been established special MVD units. These units will transmit the order for the transfer or deactivation of a headquarters unit. At the same time, the MVD unit is to assume control of the dissolving headquarters and accomplish the removal of documentary material; all documents which are not destined for removal are to be burnt immediately. In addition, the MVD unit is to supervise the departure of the troops of the military unit in question and prevent any desertions.

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Auth: DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77
DDA EDC- 77/1763

Date: 170479

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